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configuration poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene)_n, wherein the subscript n is two or greater and optionally in combination with a selected amount of at least one polymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of poly(styrene-butadiene-styrene), poly(styrene-butadiene)_n, poly(styrene-butadiene), poly(styrene-isoprene-styrene), poly(styrene-isoprene)_n, poly(styrene-isoprene), poly(styrene-ethylene-propylene)_n, poly(styrene-ethylene-propylene), poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene)_n, poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene), polystyrene, polybutylene, poly(ethylene-propylene), poly(ethylene-butylene), polypropylene, or polyethylene, wherein said selected copolymer is a linear, branched, multi-arm, or star shaped copolymer; said composition characterized by a gel rigidity of from about 20 to about 800 gram Bloom.

(New claim) 8. A composition comprising: a gel formed from (a) 100 parts by weight of one or more high viscosity multi-arm block copolymer of the general configuration poly(styrene-ethylene-propylene)_n, wherein the subscript n is two or greater; (b) from about 300 to about 1,600 parts by weight of a plasticizing oil and optionally in combination with a selected amount of at least one polymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of poly(styrene-butadiene-styrene), poly(styrene-butadiene)_n, poly(styrene-butadiene), poly(styrene-isoprene-styrene), poly(styrene-isoprene)_n, poly(styrene-isoprene), poly(styrene-ethylene-propylene), poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene)_n, poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene), polystyrene, polybutylene, poly(ethylene-propylene), poly(ethylene-butylene), polypropylene, or polyethylene, wherein said selected copolymer is a linear, branched, multi-arm, or star shaped copolymer; said composition characterized by a gel rigidity of from about 20 to about 800 gram Bloom.

R E M A R K S

The application and the material cited to date have been carefully reviewed along with Examiner's remarks in the Advisory action and additional review with Examiner via telephone. After this review, Applicant is convinced that his invention as now claimed is patentable. Applicant strongly believes that his claims as amended define the invention in a clear and definite manner, and that all of the claims are allowable.

The specification has been amended to correspond to the claims which amendments are supported by the disclosure and claims as originally filed and does not involve new matter, see page 9, line 14 regarding fatty acids, metal stearate at page 2, line 21 and what is inherently denoted by the subscript n as exemplified

for multi-arm block copolymers starting at page 4, line 32, page 8, line 5, page 15, line 16, and page 15, line 27.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended and new claims 3-7 have been added to better bring out the invention as suggested in the Office Action regarding components c and d. Claim 8 is directed to a multi-arm block copolymer gel.

Applicant acknowledges the earliest filing date supporting (c) and (d) in application 572,172 filed 1/18/84 (excluding wax) and supporting (c) and (d) including wax in application 934,027 and 957,290 filed 8/24/92. With respect to branched, multi-arm, or star shaped copolymer and more specifically multi-arm block copolymer poly(styrene-ethylene-propylene)_n, the earliest support is found in application 527,085 filed May 21, 1990. Regarding the earliest filing date which the instant application will rely for support as its filing date, Applicant wishes to amend the paragraph at page 1 Reference to Related Applications and Patents upon notice of allowance.

With regard patents '334, '708, '890, '723, and '213, these are concern with the gels' inherent tacky, sticky, and adhering nature useful among other things as lint removers. The desired properties of concern in these patents are the physical properties such as elongation, tensile, stability, etc. Such physical properties are substantially not affected. Applicant search for additives which are advantageous over the prior patented gels is to decrease tack. Applicant's use of gel articles for flying toys pointed out the serious problem of tackiness of the gels ability to pick up everything the gel came into contact with. What Applicant found was a combination of additives which advantageously reduced the tackiness in gels making it ineffective as lint removers, useful in situations where tackiness is detrimental. The combination of additives provided unexpected results which allows normally sticky gels to be used where it was impossible to use before.

Applicant submits PTO form 1449 listing two relevant documents patent nos. 4,351,913 directed to SEBS + oil + polyethylene or glycerol hydroxy stearate and 5,618,882 directed to SEPS gels. Copies enclosed. Patent '913 was included on page 5 of 12 considered by the Examiner on 5/1/97. Applicant may not have directed the Office attention to the stearate. Patent '882 is a newly issued patent.

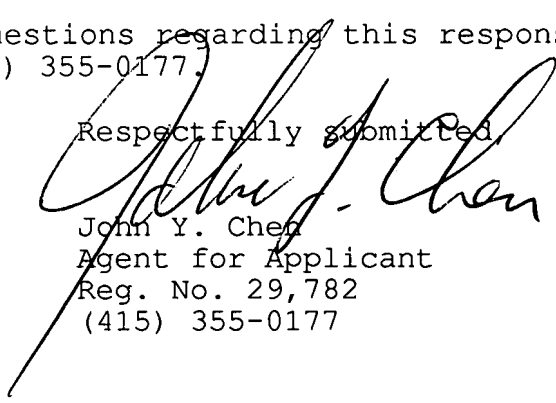
Attached is payment for the new claims 3-8. Originally filed claims: one independent, 1 dependent. Newly filed claims 1 independent and 5 dependent: 1 X \$80.00 + 5 X \$22 = \$190.00

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In view of the foregoing, all of the rejections and objections are deemed overcome.

Should Examiner have any questions regarding this response, Applicant can be reached at (415) 355-0177.

Respectfully submitted,


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